

USSN 09/781,793
Amendment Responsive to Office Action of December 16, 2003
April 16, 2004
A-1714

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 12, lines 19-21, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

-- Figure 10 is a partial sectional view through the left humeral head of a human as seen from the front showing the use of an alternative minimally invasive soft tissue to bone attachment system of the present invention; ~~and~~ --

On page 12, lines 22-24, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

-- Figure 11A is a perspective view of a combined suture locking portion and bone anchor structure of the present invention, showing an alternative suture pulley structure; and --

Please add the following new paragraph on page 12, line 25, prior to the subtitle "Description of the Preferred Embodiment":

-- Figure 11 B is a cross-sectional view taken along lines 11B - 11B of Figure 11A. --

On page 19, line 23 through page 20, line 7, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

-- Now with specific reference to Figures 3A-3C, the path of the length of suture through the suture anchor system 20 will be described. The suture loop 32 is seen projecting upward from the system, but it again should be noted that this loop is embedded in soft tissue in use of the system. The two free ends 34a, 34b extend through ~~an~~ the axial slot 90 51 in the delivery tube 50, and through ~~an~~ the axial slot 90 57 in the deployment tube 56 into lumen 66 of the suture can 46. As best seen in Figure 3C, the free ends pass through the lumen 66 and around the aforementioned pulley 70. The free

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ends then travel in a proximal direction through the lumen 66 and through the lumen of the deployment tube 56 to emerge from proximal end of the system. Because the suture loop 32 is embedded in soft tissue, pulling on both of the free ends 34a, 34b, or pulling on one end while holding one fixed, will create tension in the length of suture. The pulley 70 provides relatively little resistance to sliding of the length of suture therearound, and thus this tensioning can be accomplished relatively easily. --